

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

PRESS RELEASE

May 7 , 2003


The United States District for the District of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that, after considerable effort and with the assistance of our entire Congressional delegation, a federal defender's office has been established in this District. The Federal Defender will be responsible for representing individuals charged with federal offenses at trial and on appeal if those individuals cannot afford to retain private counsel.

Establishment of a federal defender's office will reduce the number of private attorneys that must be appointed and paid by the Court and it will serve as a resource for those private attorneys that still may have to be appointed in cases where the federal defender is unable to represent a particular defendant.

The establishment of a federal defender's office will help to ensure that indigent defendants receive adequate representation and that criminal cases are disposed of in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

The Rhode Island office will operate under the supervision of Owen Walker, Esq., the Federal Defender for the District of Massachusetts. It will be managed by Edward Roy, Esq., a long-time member of this Court's CJA panel, a former president of the Rhode Island Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and someone who

previously served as Resource Counsel for CJA panel attorneys in this District. Mr. Roy will be assisted by Olin Thompson, Esq., who has five years of experience as an attorney in the Rhode Island Public Defender's office. We feel fortunate to have the services of two such able individuals.


Ernest C. Torres, Chief Judge


David DiMarzio, Clerk of Court